

piece of legislation so that the Medicare ESRD Program can meet the challenges it faces in the 21st Century.

THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001 America watched in horror as terrorists attacked our country. We felt outrage and sadness but the worst feeling that day was a sense of helplessness. We wanted to know how the terrorists were able to invade our country and commit these terrible acts of violence and what we could do to prevent this from happening again.

Today's release of the 9/11 Commission Report will help focus our efforts in finding out what went wrong and what steps we must take to prevent another attack. The findings by the bipartisan 9/11 Commissioners give us an opportunity to analyze the steps that we have taken in the last two and one half years to make this country safer.

The Commission found that lack of intelligence information sharing between the CIA, FBI and other government agencies was the greatest weakness leading to the 9/11 attacks. They found that even when information was shared there still was an inability to connect the dots.

As Ranking Member on the Intelligence and Counterterrorism Subcommittee of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, I have worked with my Subcommittee chairman, Jim Gibbons, to make sure that the intelligence agencies are gathering and sharing critical information. We have also held hearings concerning information sharing with our first responders and state and local officials. These brave men and women who serve on the front line must be kept in the loop and be provided with the tools they need to communicate with each other as they work to protect the citizens of this great country. We still have much to accomplish, but I believe that the 9/11 Commission Report will significantly assist with our work on these critical issues.

The Commission recommends that Congress give the executive branch more guidance on fighting terrorism and that the Congressional Intelligence Committees take a more active oversight role. They also recommend the establishment of a National Counterterrorism Center, and consolidating budgetary and operational oversight of all fifteen intelligence agencies and the naming of a new National Intelligence Director to help unify the intelligence community. I support all of these recommendations and thank the 9/11 Commissioners and their staff for their dedication to winning the war on terrorism.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY ON TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this week, the world marked the 30th anniversary

of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. And so began three decades of Turkey's illegal military occupation of Cyprus. Even as we speak, Turkey maintains 30,000 heavily armed troops in the occupied portions of Cyprus.

For 30 years, Cyprus has been divided by a green line—a 113 mile barbed wire barrier that runs across the width of the island.

For 30 years, Greek Cypriots have experienced 30 years of ethnic cleansing, forcible evictions, and missing persons. Cyprus has endured 30 years of the flouting of its territorial integrity. This includes the occupation authority's attempt to create an independent "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus."

The international community has witnessed 30 years of the flagrant violation of U.N. General Assembly resolutions and Security Council decisions calling for immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cyprus, the return of refugees, and respect for the island's sovereignty.

Thirty years is a long time. The occupation of Cyprus has been going on too long. If left to their own wisdom and devices, with firm international support, Greek and Turkish Cypriots could find ways to live in peace and harmony.

The international community can and must play an indispensable role in settling the Cyprus dispute. But, to do this, it must draw the proper conclusions from results of the vote this past April on the reunification plan put forward by the United Nations.

Seventy six percent of the Greek Cypriot electorate opposed the "Annan Plan" because of concerns about security, property restitution, and the structure of the proposed central government, while 65 percent of Turkish Cypriot voters supported it. It is clear from this experience that a workable solution must take the interests and concerns of both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities fully into account.

It is instructive that the split vote has not led to greater tension between the two communities or between Greece and Turkey. During most of the 433 year history of Cyprus, Greek and Turkish Cypriots have coexisted peacefully.

With the notable exception of the period that immediately followed Turkish occupation of Cyprus, Greek and Turkish Cypriot relations have largely been free of inter-communal violence. The hotly debated referendum itself took place overwhelmingly with an absence of conflict. This shows that despite the differences between them, Greek and Turkish Cypriots overwhelmingly share a desire for peace.

The leadership of the Republic of Cyprus seeks a bizonal, bicomunal federation under a plan that promotes the genuine reunification of Cypriots and Cypriot society, while enabling each community to retain its own identity and culture.

Cyprus's admission to the European Union on May 1st of this year may have created a new opportunity for resolving the division and occupation with an inclusive democratic system in which human rights are fully respected and the fundamental freedoms on which the European Union is founded, are guaranteed.

Taking all of this into account, the U.N. needs to go back to the drawing board. The United States needs to remain an honest broker. It must not attempt to impose a solution that the overwhelming majority of Greek-

Cypriots reject. To do so will make an ultimate solution and final reunification difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

America must at all times remember that a united, peaceful, and prosperous Cyprus is in our national interest and the interest of world peace. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Cyprus was one of the first nations to express its solidarity with the United States. Cyprus has also been a strong ally in the war against terrorism. We must continue to support our friends, who like us, only seek to live in peace.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LAWRENCE A. MILLBEN RECEIVES THE CHAMPION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to acknowledge one of my constituents, Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence A. Millben, Support Group Commander of the 127th Wing of the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan. This Saturday, July 24, 2004, he will be recognized by the North American Black Historical Museum with a Champion of Excellence Award for his many achievements, particularly within the realm of aviation. Like the North American Black Historical Museum, I am impressed by his accomplishments in the United States and Canada. I am especially proud of Lieutenant Colonel Millben because of the numerous contributions and firsts realized in my District, the 14th Congressional District of Michigan, because of him.

Lieutenant Colonel Millben, born in Detroit, Michigan and educated in the Detroit Public School System, has achieved many firsts and has set an exceptional example. He was the first African American to graduate from Aero Mechanics High School, one of four schools in the country that specializes in aircraft maintenance. After high school, he became the first African American to enlist in the Michigan Air National Guard. In 1957, he continued his education and attended the basic and the advanced technician level Aircraft Electrical Schools, completing both simultaneously. This was the first time in the history of the Air Force School that anyone completed both schools simultaneously.

After attending the Air Force School, he went on to have a rewarding career in the private sector, as well as in the military. He was employed by the Burroughs Corporation from 1959 through 1975 and holds several United States Patents. He has also advised the Detroit Public School System on Aircraft Avionics and Aerospace subjects as a consultant.

Military highlights for the Lieutenant Colonel include serving as a full time Avionics Officer from 1975 until 1983, acting as the 191st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander in 1983, becoming the first African American Line Officer promoted to the grade of Lieutenant Colonel Millben in 1986, and assuming the position of Deputy Commander for Maintenance in 1988. From 1987–1988, he also served as the President of the 12,000 members National Guard Association of Michigan, the first African American Air Guardsman to do so. Finally, in his current capacity of